

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
07/13/09 Monday.....	2 Chronicles.....09-10	Psalm.....146-147
07/14/09 Tuesday.....	2 Chronicles.....11-12	Psalm.....148-150
07/15/09 Wednesday.....	2 Chronicles.....13-14	Proverb.....01-02
07/16/09 Thursday.....	2 Chronicles.....15-16	Proverb.....03-04
07/17/09 Friday.....	2 Chronicles.....17-18	Proverb.....05-06
07/18/09 Saturday.....	2 Chronicles.....19-20	Proverb.....07-08
07/19/09 Sunday.....	2 Chronicles.....21-22	Proverb.....09-10

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our mailing address is "P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is jerry@challenge2.org. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is thmcdonald10@hotmail.com. His cell phone number is (573) 308-9126. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is bellecoc@bellecoc.com.

Our services are as follows:

TIMES OF SERVICE

- Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
- Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
- Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00
- Ladies Bible Class 3rd Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

OUR PLEA: BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ
P.O. Box 381
Belle, MO 65013

The Informer

Belle church of Christ

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IS IT SINFUL TO CALL SOMEONE A FOOL?

Jerry D. McDonald

In his sermon on the mount Jesus said “*But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire*” (Mat 5:22). One of the problems with Biblical interpretation is leaving a verse in its context. When people take verses out of their contexts they can make them say anything they want them to say, but when the verses are left in their contexts the truth can be seen. People argue that it is a sin to call someone a “fool” because of what Jesus said. So what we need to do is to, first, look at the context of this verse, then we will look at other verses that deal with calling people fools.

What was Jesus talking about when he said “*whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire*”? Jesus said:

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire” (Mat 5:21-22).

Jesus informed them that they had heard that it was said that they were not to kill and whoever killed would be in danger of the judgment. The judgment was not the eternal judgment, but was the judicial judgment: “Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment” (Deu 16:18). Jesus told them that this was what they had heard the law said, but he was telling them that whoever was angry with his brother without a cause would be in danger of the civil judgment. Why is this? What led to Abel’s death? Cain being angry without a cause! Jesus

also said that whosoever said to his brother “Raca” ῥακά rhaka rhak-ah' Of Chaldee origin (compare [H7386]); O empty one, that is, thou worthless (as a term of utter vilification): - Raca” (Strong’s Greek Dictionary, e-Sword) would be in danger of the counsel or the Sanhedrim, the highest court of Israel, which corresponds with our Supreme Court. And whosoever would say “Thou fool” would be in danger of hell fire. Adam Clarke wrote of the three stages: “1st. Anger against a man, accompanied with some injurious act. 2dly. Contempt, expressed by the opprobrious epithet raka, or shallow brains. 3dly. Hatred and mortal enmity, expressed by the term moreh, or apostate, where such apostasy could not be proved” (*Clarke’s Commentaries*, e-Sword). Notice that the first step is anger without a cause, the second step is contempt for one’s brother, and the third is hatred. Now notice what John wrote: “*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him*” (1Jn 3:15).

So is it a sin to call someone a fool? Jesus was telling the Jews what the law of Moses actually stated. The first step was judgment, the second—the counsel, and the third—hell fire. This was all part of the law of Moses, not the law of Christ which we are under today. However, there is a principle for us today because we should not get to the point that we hate one another. When we get to the point that we hate one another then we become murderers in the eyes of God because murder is the next step from hatred.

What about Jesus calling people fools? What about Paul calling people fools? And what about David saying “*The fool hath said in his heart there is no God*” (Psa. 14:1)? Some would argue that we are not Jesus, Paul or David, and granted we aren’t, but the thing is if something is sinful then it is sinful. Now Jesus, as sovereign, has the right to decide who lives and who dies, but even he does not have the right to violate his own laws. If he says that it is a sin, in every case to call someone a fool, then it is a sin for him to do so. However, we see him doing this to the Pharisees in Matthew the 23rd chapter “*Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?*” (Mat 23:19). Paul also called people fools “*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools*” (Rom 1:22). Now, yes, Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit was not going to cause Paul to write something that was sinful for him to write and say. This would be like saying Jesus turned water into intoxicating wine knowing full well such went against Prov. 23:31 “*Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright*” (Pro 23:31). Jesus would not go against what the Spirit had told Solomon to write, by inspiration, was sinful and the Spirit would not have Paul do that which Jesus said was sinful. There is no division in the Godhead, but there is perfect unity. What Jesus was talking about (1) was the law of Moses, and (2) being so angry that hatred is allowed to come in to the point that one would commit the act of murder, even in his heart.

There is nothing in the law of Christ that condemns us for calling someone a fool. Atheists are fools—the Bible says so. They say there is no God and the Bible tells us that the fool says that there is no God. Those who twist and turn the scriptures around to fit their own desires are fools—that is what the Pharisees were doing. Jesus called them such and there is nothing wrong with pointing this out. We do need to make sure that we do not have hatred in our hearts when we do this. The attitude is the important thing in this regard.

CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER LIST

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Sandy Sarchette, Nettie B. Shirley, Dixie Stacy, Darrell Conley, and Marvin Howard and his wife in our daily prayers.

THOSE TO SERVE July 12, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE July 19, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....David Shanks & Jerry McDonald	Greeters.....Tex & Lois Kinman
Announcements.....Danny Keeney	Announcements.....Jerry McDonald
Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Leroy Thomas	Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks
Lord’s Supper.....Jerry McDonald & Andy Shanks	Lord’s Supper.....David Shanks & Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Taylor Shanks	Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Devotional.....Thomas McDonald	Devotional.....David Shanks
Closing Prayer.....David Shanks	Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

The items for Fair Haven’s Children’s Home will be “Liquid Fabric Softener,” and “Canned Chicken.”

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks:

The a.m. lesson for July 12, 2009 is “The Privilege of Prayer.” The p.m. lesson is “The Communication of our Faith.” The a.m. lesson for July 19, 2009 is “The High Priesthood of Christ.” The p.m. lesson will be “Every Good Thing Which Is In You.”

Lucetria and Vera are leaving us tomorrow and we will be sad to see them go. However, we are glad to have their forwarding address and phone number: 109 Diane Drive, Prattville, AL 36066. (334) 361-3911. We wish them the best of luck in their new home and we wish them Godspeed in the days ahead. We will sorely miss them.